

cause of the telegraph. Australia can be more easily reached from London today than from Liverpool could be reached in 1837.

With the establishment of steam and electrical communication came the rapid development of the manufacturing and seaport towns, and of London itself. Birmingham and Liverpool and other large towns, had widely diverging interests. They were all governed by the same cumbersome municipal system of control, and in this sense their interests were common. The greater part of their inhabitants were subjected to some low-wage scheme, with no voice in local government, and in a second way their interests were common. The same spirit of progress that forced local government for the colonies upon Parliament characterized the efforts for municipal reform. Within the last few years efforts have been made in London itself to substitute a system of central municipal control and government for the varied parish governing bodies whose territory has been absorbed by the growth of the metropolis.

A distinctive feature of the reign has been progress. The way was paved for it by the necessity for changes in the old systems, and to a certain degree by the legislative acts previous to 1837. These enactments do not lessen the influence of the reign in any degree. Sixty years of devotion to principle, 60 years of beneficence cannot be lived by the head of a nation without an influence upon every subject. Exerted by a woman, there was all the more reason why the condition of every woman should be advanced. From the time when the Earl of Shaftesbury pressed the claims of the cause which he defended upon Parliament, to the time when, a few months since, Lady Aberdeen was the principal orator at the commencement exercises of a great university, and made a plea for the higher education of women, there has been a constant development of that higher education.

In 1837 the indifferent attitude which was exhibited toward social conditions was manifest in the religious world as well, unless, as it was sometimes the case, it was feared that some radical change was threatened. Then the extremists arose in defense of their principals. The announcement to Parliament that the Queen was to marry her cousin, Prince Albert, served as an occasion for violent dissensions. The question was raised as to whether or not the Prince was a Protestant, and England was stirred from one end to the other. Although Prince Albert's house had always been a Protestant house, the mere omission of the announcement that he was a Protestant, in the declaration to Parliament, was considered ominous to the Established Church. Such a dissension would not be possible today, probably.

One thing which served to arouse religious interest and to induce renewed fervor in the churches was the withdrawal of Dr. Newman from the Established Church, and his going over to the Church of Rome. At the same time the functions of the Church were being attacked by the Reform party, and its right to hold property questioned. This easily brought out a movement to re-establish the old authority of the Church. The center of this religious thought was at Oxford. A similar process of thought and reasoning was going on within the Church in Scotland, and an effort was made to separate Church and State. The secession of Dr. Chalmers and several hundred ministers and the formation of the Free Church was the result.

At all times during the reign there has been freedom of thought. Along with extension of boundary lines and expansion of trade have come new ideas. The same influences that defended the Church in the time of Newman, defended it a little more in 1850, when the Established Church was invited into the Church of Rome, because of the mistaken assumption of the Vatican that popular feeling in England was turning toward the Church of Rome. Religious liberty had been tolerated to a considerable degree. In the Charitable Bequests Act of 1845 Irish Catholic prelates were given rank immediately after the prelates of the Established Church of the same degree. This, and the secession of many noted members of the Established Church was taken at Rome to mean that the whole of Protestant England was preparing to secede. The Papal bill directed the establishment of a "hierarchy of bishops, deriving their titles from their own sees." The mistaken interpretation of the Vatican of the latitude of the English Church served to call out all the latent fealty to the Established Church. It induced a revival of religious fervor that has never since subsided. Lord John Russell ably rose to the defense of the Church, and meetings were held all over England. The subject was even thrust upon Parliament in the form of a bill to prevent the "assumption by Roman Catholics of titles taken from any territory within the United Kingdom." The bill was eventually passed in a much amended form, but never enforced. Queen Victoria's own spirit of fairness was exhibited in a letter, which she wrote on the subject, in which she said: "I would never have consented to anything which breathed a spirit of intolerance." One menace to the Established Church was thus forever set at rest.

From the time of Lord Palmerston England's foreign policy has been vigorous. It has added much territory to the Empire. It has placed England in a powerful position among the civilized nations, so that today there is scarcely a question in Europe which involves territorial jurisdiction, in which England is not vitally interested. The settlement of the Eastern boundary had for many years been a troublesome subject to the European civilized nations. The Ottoman Empire

had held an unassailable position for many years, but the dissolution of the Empire in Europe seemed inevitable, and some arrangements must be made for a division. Russia claimed to have a direct interest by treaty in the Christians then controlled by the Empire, primarily, and it was because of this that England came to enter into an alliance against Russia. The peace which was secured by the Crimean war lasted less than 25 years. England's influence in the East has since been exercised as forcibly. In 1862 England was nearly called upon again, this time on behalf of Crete. From 1875 to 1878 she was deeply interested, ending in the Congress of Berlin.

England's policy in India and her foreign colonies have secured to her vast resources. But her interests have not been wholly absorbed by affairs without the confines of the British Islands. The army and navy have been developed to maintain her prestige. Reforms have been inaugurated in every branch of the service. The prison system has been revolutionized and crime has diminished. The policy of the police system has been in the interests of humanity, to "prevent, rather than punish."

England's intellectual and educational life has developed during the reign of Queen Victoria. To use the words of Justin McCarthy: "At the opening of Queen Victoria's reign a great race of literary men had come to a close. It is curious to note how sharply and completely the literature of Victoria separates itself from that of the era, whose heroes were Scott, Byron and Wordsworth. Before Queen Victoria came to the throne, Scott,

Byron, Coleridge and Keats were dead. Wordsworth lived, indeed, for many years after; so did Southey and Moore, and Savage Landor died later still. But Wordsworth, Southey, Moore and Landor had completed their literary work before Victoria came to the throne. Not one of them added a cubit or an inch to his intellectual stature from that time; some of them even did work which distinctly proved that their day was done. A new and fresh breath was soon after breathed into literature. Nothing, perhaps, is more remarkable about the age of Queen Victoria than its complete severance from the leadership of that which had gone before it, and its evidence of a fresh and genuine inspiration."

In the latter part of the reign science developed more. Science owes much to Brewster, to Faraday and to Sir John Herschell. To Richard Owen was given the task of enlightening the surgical world. Hugh Miller brought geology to the intimate acquaintance of the masses. Darwin, Hume and Huxley made daring original researches also into scientific ideas.

In the earlier part of the reign the names of Grote, Macaulay and Carlyle stand out prominently. Poetry instantly suggests Tennyson and Browning. The literature of Ruskin has its own unique place, nor should Dickens be forgotten. It would be impracticable to make a list of all who have contributed during the last 60 years to the literary and artistic development of the reign of Queen Victoria. In every atmosphere, in every department, in every home, the influence of Queen Victoria has had its lasting, benign effect.

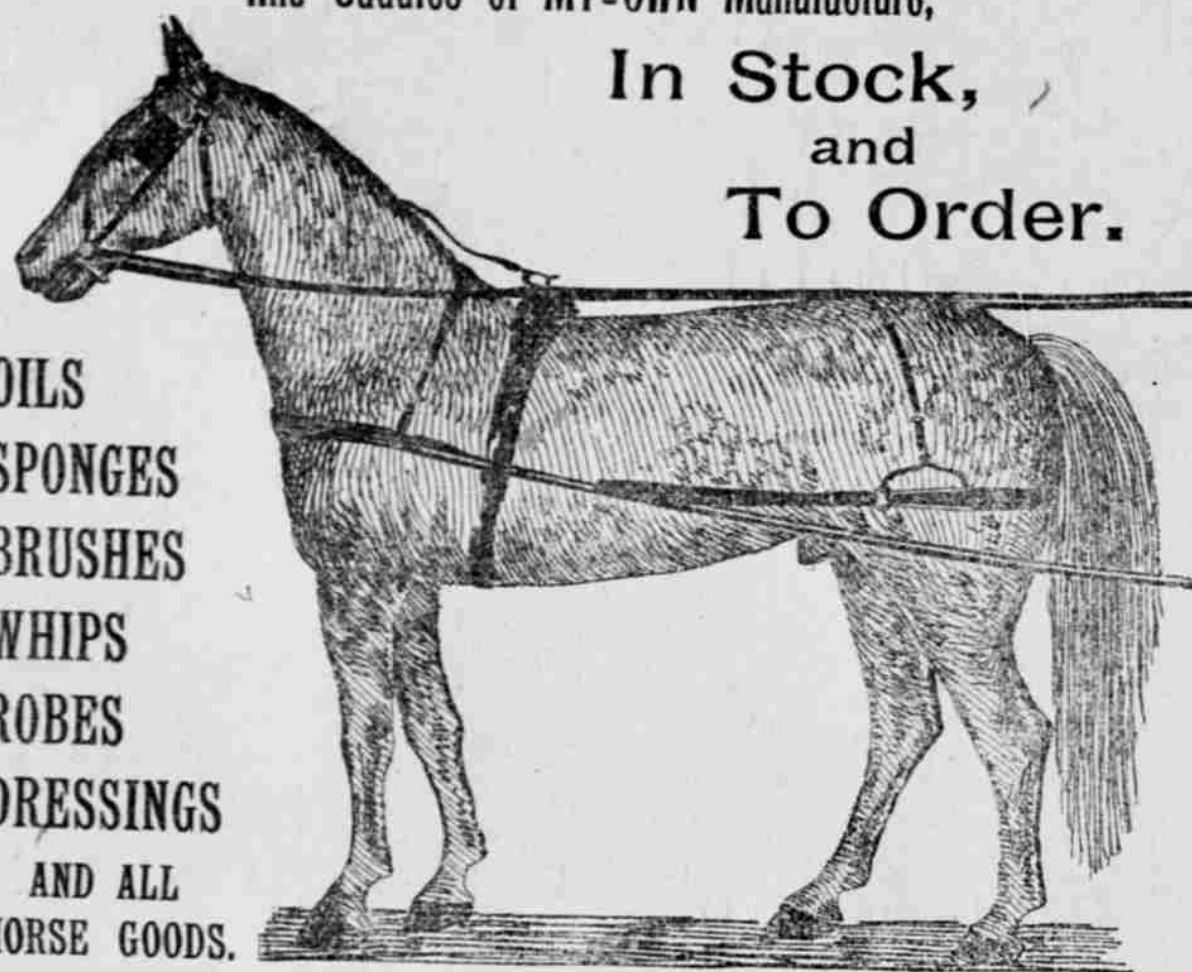
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